



Administrative and Customer Services Division

Data Developments

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
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***Survey of Income and Program Participation
(SIPP) 1996 Panel Wave 4 Core Microdata File,***
*[machine-readable data file] / conducted by the U.S. Bureau
of the Census. Washington: The Bureau [producer and
distributor], 2000.*

Type of File

Microdata; unit of observation is an individual.

Universe Description

The universe is the resident population of the United States, excluding persons living in institutions and military barracks.

Subject-Matter Description

The file contains basic demographic and social characteristics data for each member of the household. These include age, sex, race (White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander; and Other), ethnic origin (23 categories including 7 Spanish origin categories), marital status, household relationship, education, and veteran status. Limited data are provided on housing unit characteristics such as units in structure, tenure, and access. Core questions, which are repeated at each interview, cover labor force activity, types and amounts of income, and participation in various cash and noncash benefit programs for each month of the four-month reference period. Data for employed persons include number of hours and weeks worked, earnings, and weeks without a job. Nonworkers are classified as unemployed or not in the labor force. In addition to income data associated with labor force activity, data include nearly 50 other types of income. Core data also cover post secondary school attendance, public or subsidized rental housing, low-income energy assistance, and school breakfast and lunch participation.

The sample in each wave consists of 4 rotation groups, each interviewed in a different month. For Wave 4, the interview months are from April 1997 to July 1997. For each group, the reference period for reporting labor force activity and income is the four calendar months preceding the interview month.

SIPP is a longitudinal survey where each sampled household and each descendent household is reinterviewed at 4-month intervals for 12 interviews or "waves." This file contains the results of the **fourth** interview. Unique codes are included on each record to allow linking together the same persons from the preceding and subsequent waves.

Geographic Coverage

United States. Codes are included for 45 individual States and the District of Columbia, **although the sample was not designed to produce State estimates**. Areas in the SIPP sample in the five other States are identified in groups for confidentiality reasons. The file identifies a subsample of metropolitan residents, along with codes for selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's) and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA's).

Technical Description

File Structure: Rectangular. Each logical record for a sampled person includes information on the household and family of which the person was a part during each month of the reference period, as well as characteristics of the person and each source of income received during the period. Beginning in 1990 the unit observation changed from one record for each person to one record for each person for each month in sample.

File Size: 343,873 logical records; 2,136 characters per record

File Sort Sequence of Sample Units: Sampling unit sequence number, by entry address ID, by person number within sampling unit and reference month.

Reference Materials

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 1996 Panel, Wave 4 Core Microdata Files Technical Documentation. The documentation includes this abstract, the data dictionary, an index to the data dictionary, relevant code lists, questionnaire facsimiles, and general information on SIPP.

Survey of Income and Program Participation Users' Guide. The *Users' Guide* contains a general overview of the file as well as chapters on survey design and content, structure and use of cross-sectional files, linking waves and reliability of the data. Copies are available from Customer Services Center, Marketing Services Office, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

Related Printed Reports

Related printed reports include working papers, compilations of papers presented at annual meetings of the American Statistical Association, articles appearing in the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, and reports in the P-70 series of the Current Population Reports.

Related Machine-Readable Data Files

SIPP files from all Waves of the 1984 through 1993 Panels, and 1996 Panel, Waves 1-4 are available from Customer Services Center, Marketing Services Office, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Some files (1990 - 1993) may be downloaded in ASCII from the Data Extraction System (DES) SURVEY-ON-CALL at <http://www.census.gov/DES/www/welcome.html> Files (1996 forward) may be downloaded from the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool (FERRET) at <http://www.ferret.bls.census.gov/cgi-bin/ferret>

File Availability

Files are available on computer tape at 6250 bpi, ASCII or EBCDIC, and standard ANSI labeling on CD-R (compact disc-readable). The file also may be made available on IBM 3480 compatible tape cartridge. A machine-readable data dictionary is provided at the end of each file. This dictionary may be purchased separately. Pricing information is available from Customer Services (301) 457-4100 ([order form](#) attached). This file also may be downloaded from the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool (FERRET) at <http://www.ferret.bls.census.gov/cgi-bin/ferret>